

Support Coordinator Recognition

Written by Lori Giovannoni, Division of Services for People with Disabilities

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Carol Hunt will tell you, even though she is non-verbal, how much she loves her 82 year old mom Elsie, likes her job and enjoys her Direct Support Staff. Hunt's Direct Support Staff include Pam Smith, private support coordinator and owner of Superior Supports, Betty Turner from RISE and Nadine Miler from South Valley Training Centers.

Turner, from RISE, starting working with Hunt last year on her birthday, spends 6 hours a week with her and introduced her to ceramics. As a result, Hunt has several folks who have put in requests for her ceramics. Although she is non-verbal, Hunt is a communicator and it is obvious she and Turner are a good match. When asked what she likes most about her job Turner is quick to say, "This has been as good for me as it is for Carol; it gets me out of the house. Elsie Carol and I have become good friends."

Elsie is filled with vigor and applied it towards the establishment of the Special Needs Mutual, where she spent years as President. Together Hunt and Elsie make quite a team.

"The days Carol is with Betty all I hear about all night long is how great Betty is," said Elsie when asked about Hunt's Direct Support Staff.

Nadine Miler has worked as Direct Support Staff for 13 years and, as a support specialist, assists Hunt at job where she is binding photo albums. "After many years as a direct support staff what I love the most is working with our clients," said Miller.

It is clear both Elsie and Carol have been determined to live a self-sustained life. After losing her husband last year, Elsie has dinner delivered daily by one of her other four children, each takes a turn – a perfect example of Natural Supports.

The day I got to meet Hunt her support coordinator, Pam Smith, had an emergency and was unable to attend. In spite of the emergency, Smith coordinated all members of the interview and made sure all went well. Both Hunt and Elsie gave kudos to Smith for her great work as Hunt's support coordinator.

These women are just three of many people who have dedicated their lives and careers to supporting others. Thank you to all of those providing support to others – your efforts do not go

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